

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 03372 250659Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/066 W

-----046492 250703Z /13

R 250052Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3674
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, MY
SUBJ: MALAYSIAN CABINET CHANGES

REF: A) KUALA LUMPUR 2100 (NOTAL); B) KUALA LUMPUR 0141

1. FORMER KELANTAN CHIEF MINISTER SENATOR DATUK HAJI MOHAMED NASIR WAS APPOINTED MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES APRIL 21. MOHAMED NASIR AHD BEEN APPOINTED A SENATOR ON APRIL 8 AND RESIGNED HIS HELANTAN STATE ASSEMBLY SEAT ON APRIL 65. HIS EXPECTED MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENT COMPLETES THE REARRANGEMENT OF THE KELANTAN POLITICAL SCENE WHICH AROSE OUT OF LAST YEAR'S CONFLICT BETWEEN THE ISLAMIC PARTY (PAS) AND THE UNITED MALAYS NATIONAL ORGANIZATION (UMNO) AND WHICH CULMINATED IN UMNO'S SWEEPING MARCH 11 VICTORY (IN COALITION WITH MOHAMED NASIR'S BERJASA PARTY)

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IN THE SPECIAL KELANTAN STATE ELECTION (REF A). HIS PREDECESSOR AS PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MINISTER, DATUK MAHAMED YAACOB, WAS NAMED KELANTAN CHIEF MINISTER AFTER THAT ELECTION TO CONFIRM UMNO CONTROL OF THE STATE.

2. MAHAMED NASIR'S APPOINTMENT MEANS THAT THERE

ARE NOW TWO CABINET MINISTERS FROM BERJASA; THE OTHER IS MINSITER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND FEDERAL TERRITORY HAJI HASSAN ADLI WHO RECENTLY OPTED TO JOIN BERJASA. BERJASA, WHICH COMPRISES FORMER PAS MEMBERS WHO CHOSE TO REMAIN CLOSE TO UMNO WHEN PAS LEFT THE NATIONAL FRONT (NF), HAS BEEN EXPECTED TO JOIN THE NF FORMALLY, BUT WILL PROBABLY NO DO SO UNTIL JUST BEFORE OF AFTER THE COMING GENERAL ELECTIONS. THE CURRENT FEDERAL GOVERNEMTN, LIKE THE KELANTAN STATE GOVERNEMTN, IS THUS IN EFFECT A NF-BERJASA COALITION.

3. MALAYSIAN CHINESE ASSOCIATION (MCA) MP DATUK LOH FOOK YEN WAS ALSO APPOINTED APRIL 21 AS PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY IN MOHAMED NASIR'S PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MINISTRY. LOH IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST CAPABLE MCA BACK-BENCHERS AND HIS PROMOTION IS PROBABLY AN INDICATION HE WILL BE GIVEN MORE IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES AFTER THE ELECTIONS. MILLER

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